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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,846	12/27/2001	Tetsuya Nishimura	KPO123	8973

25271 7590 05/22/2003

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EXAMINER

WONG, ERIC K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2874

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/033,846	NISHIMURA, TETSUYA
	Examiner Eric Wong	Art Unit 2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/27/2001.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Number 6,374,004 to Han in view of United States Patent Number 6,455,944 to Kato et al.

As to claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 Han discloses in figures 1A-1F, an optical module comprising:

- A surface light receiving or a surface light emitting type optical element mounted on a predetermined substrate (16, 18);
- At least one spacer mounted on said substrate (15, 22).
- An optical fiber array having a plurality of optical fibers buried therein substantially in parallel with one another with a predetermined pitch therebetween, said optical fiber array being mounted to said substrate with said spacer interposed between the substrate and the optical fiber array such that the optical fibers are opposed to a plurality of light receiving elements or light emitting elements of the optical element mounted on the substrate respectively,

and said optical fiber array being mounted to said substrate with alignment between the end surfaces of the optical fibers, the light receiving elements or light emitting elements, and the substrate carried out active or passive alignment means,

- As to claims 3 and 4, Han discloses the fiber array is provided with engagement means with pin like holes (12),
- As to claim 7, all components are bonded together after alignment, but
- Han fails to explicitly disclose image recognition as an alignment means.

It is widely known in the art that passive alignment means include techniques such as image recognition as disclosed in column 1, lines 17-31 of United States Patent Number 6,455,944 to Kato et al.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to recognize that image recognition is a widely known technique for passive alignment of devices to keep optical losses to a minimum.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 08/06/2002 has been considered by the examiner and made of record (note the attached copy of form PTO-1449).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:
 - a. United States Patent Number 6,526,205 to Wilson et al. for a method and apparatus for the passive alignment of optical components.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Wong whose telephone number is 703-305-4741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 830AM - 430PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 703-308-4819. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7724 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

EW
May 18, 2003



HEMANG SANGHAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER